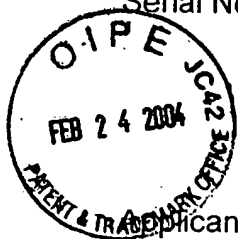


#161D

Serial No. 10/034589

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3739



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kuehn, et al      Examiner: Aaron F. Roane  
Serial No.: 10/034589      Group Art Unit: 3739  
Filed: December 28, 2001      Docket No.: 01610.0072-US-01  
Title: ANNULOPLASTY RING HOLDER

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, fax number 703-872-9306, on the date shown below.

Hallie A. Finucane  
Hallie Finucane

December 23, 2003  
date

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2003, setting a three month shortened statutory period for response.

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